

## CEMETERY DOCUMENTATION PROPECT



Timmons Cemetery

The Cultural Resource Program at the U.S. Army Garrison-Redstone began a program to document the 47 historic cemeteries on Redstone Arsenal. Mr. John Rankin, a retired government employee and Cultural Resources Program Volunteer, has created a photographic record of the historic cemeteries on Redstone Arsenal. At each cemetery he photographed all stones present. He cleaned the stones in order to make the markings more legible in the photographs. Some cemeteries have no stones to establish family names. Mr. Rankin has done archival research at the library and at the Madison County Court House in order to establish names of families associated with the cemeteries. He has provided professional quality CD's of his compiled work. Mr. Rankin has developed our research base for the historic cemeteries. He has provided a wealth of historic information based on his archival research. Driven and motivated by his keen interest in documenting the cemeteries, and enabled by his superior skills, Mr. Rankin has provided us with a product that has the unique qualities only found in a labor done with personal interest. Mr. Rankin's work represents countless hours over the past few years.

Mr. Rankin's contribution can be divided into three main areas of benefit: (1) He has established a base of research for the historic cemeteries; (2) he has provided notes he gathered during his research that contain a wealth of information for reference in the development of our cultural footprint; (3) he has enabled us to better answer questions from the many people who call in regard to genealogy and family names of people who used to live on the arsenal land and may be buried here.

The work continues. We plan to use this information to publish a book on the cemeteries on Redstone Arsenal.